

President's Message Werner Willoughby



2020 started out on an exciting note. January 11th at the Alumni Reunion we met fourteen excited, enthusiastic young people accompanied by their supportive parents. The students enjoyed lively discussions with last year's students and TSCA members while enjoying the always delicious pot-luck lunch. The Reunion ended with last year's students leading all in the Kashiwa Odori including some of the new prospective parents, learning on the fly, following the leaders.

The Student Selection Committee spent two Saturdays of interviews, gaining a deeper insight and understanding, of why they want to go on the "trip of a lifetime." This was followed by an informal pizza party and dinner with Selection Committee members; no pressure, just down to earth discussion about their family, TSCA and the committee members experiences with TSCA.

The first Bunka-Sai planning meeting was held, securing ads and performers were under way, new canopies were to be purchased, lessons learned from last year were discussed and solutions proposed, flyers for Bunka-Sai and the Anime contest were distributed, publicity was ramping up and last but not least...how to make more of those addicting dangos!!

WHAT COULD GO WRONG??

Due to the coronavirus of pandemic proportions TSCA's 2020 came to a screeching halt. Directives from the city and state answered many questions, a hard decision had to

be made.

Several participants questioned whether to attend, was it a go or no go? Many thanks for all their effort to **Cindy Scotto**, ads and donations, **Aileen Willoughby**, performers, **Summer Nagano Gray**, Anime contest, and **Jen Hirashiki**, publicity, all of whom had things locked in. Food booth chairs were finalizing their plans even ordering vegetables and calling their volunteers. Flyers were printed and being distributed

March 16th the Board of Directors decided to cancel Bunka-Sai, our fundraiser scheduled for April 18 and 19.

Last big question, is the student exchange program scheduled for July and August realistic? The Torrance Committee in Kashiwa presented their challenges and concerns in an unstable situation, namely the safety and welfare of the students and adult leader from both Kashiwa and Torrance and recruiting host families. With TSCA sharing similar concerns and too much uncertainty we arrived at a mutual conclusion to cancel the exchange program for 2020. May I express TSCA's appreciation to **Chairman Hisataka Takikawa** and the Torrance Committee for working with TSCA in such a collaborative manner to solve our common dilemma.

March 20th the TSCA Board and the Torrance Committee in Kashiwa canceled the student exchange program scheduled for July and August.

On a positive note; I would like to thank **Akiko Nobusawa**, the Torrance Committee Liaison with whom I

WHAT'S INSIDE:

President's Message

PAGES 1-2

Joh Sekiguchi

PAGE 2

Procedures Chairperson

PAGE 2

Memories of Japan:

Veganism

PAGE 3

TSCA Membership

Form

PAGE 4

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

JOH SEKIGUCHI

September 14, 1930 - April 1, 2020

Joh Sekiguchi, a lifetime member of TSCA, passed away on April 1, 2020.

Joh earned a BS in engineering from UC Berkeley and was an electrical engineer at Northrop Corporation.

He served as treasurer of TSCA for five years and as interpreter/translator for many years. He was an interpreter for all Kashiwa delegates when they visited Torrance. He translated written materials for TSCA and the City of Torrance and served as interpreter for Torrance Mayors **Katy Geissert**, **Dee Hardison**, and **Dan Walker**.

Joh enjoyed the Sister City Program and went to Kashiwa several times as an anniversary delegate. He also traveled to Japan on his own many times. He loved to sing and was a member of a karaoke group.

Joh will be fondly remembered by all who knew him. ☘

have had the pleasure to work with this past year. Akiko facilitated the communications between TSCA and the Torrance Committee in Kashiwa. I could always count on Akiko for a thorough and timely response to any issue...thank you so much Akiko!

I would like to welcome **Yuko Ishibashi** as the new liaison for the Torrance Committee. Here is wishing you the very best in your new position. I'm looking forward to working with you.

Another big thank you goes out to **Debbie Collins**. Debbie just retired after working the past nineteen years for the City of Torrance, most recently as the Administrative Assistant for the Cultural Services Division of the Community Services Department. As president of TSCA, I've had the pleasure and honor to work with Debbie, as she was always there to assist myself and others from TSCA. Debbie's support for TSCA was extraordinary. On behalf of TSCA enjoy your retirement, we all miss you Debbie!! ☘



Donna Dunlap, Butch Ihde, Debbie Collins, and Werner Willoughby at Debbie's retirement party

PROCEDURES CHAIRPERSON NEEDED

TSCA is looking for a new Procedures Committee chairperson. What are procedures, you say? Please read on.

The Procedures Committee was established in 1996. **Procedures are the why, who, what, when, and how of TSCA.**

WHY: Procedures are needed to maintain a framework of how things are done. Changes are made anytime when necessary and meaningful suggestions arise.

WHO: The chairperson, all committee chairpersons

WHAT: A collection of information geared to assist committee chairpersons and members carry on the work of TSCA. Two binders are kept: one by the chairperson and the other by the president.

WHEN: The committee works quietly all year long. No committee meetings are held, just verbal communication with chairpersons as needed. Every November, the books are revised and updated as necessary.

HOW: The chairperson makes every effort to attend all association meetings, events, and functions and keeps in touch with what is happening in TSCA. When new board members or chairpeople are elected/appointed, proper paperwork/information is given to those members.

The Procedures Committee is a work-in-the-background, quiet, extremely important committee.

Interested? Please call Hazel Taniguchi at (310) 328-1238 or e-mail Hazel at HazNT@aol.com for more information. ☘

Torrance Sister City Association

PRESIDENT

Werner Willoughby

VICE PRESIDENT

Jen Hirashiki

SECRETARY

Karen Wheeler

TREASURER

Sindy Kang

Newsletter Editor

Rae Ann Carr

Newsletter Distribution

Donna Dunlap

Comments or submissions?

Please send an email to tscanewsletter@gmail.com

Veganism in Japan

Olivia Penland

TSCA 2019 Student Delegate



Ever since I took my first sip of *miso* soup, I have loved Japanese food. So, of course, when I got the opportunity to visit Japan as a student delegate, one of the first things I began to get excited for was trying their vast range of different foods.

From *inari* to *soba* to Japanese curry, I knew I'd be able to expand my knowledge of the cuisine. While this prospect was exciting, I was slightly anxious that I would have to do so with my one limitation - being vegan. With a cuisine famous for seafood, I was initially worried about whether or not it would be difficult to find options outside of rice and seaweed. Luckily, I was quickly reassured by the best two cooks I know, my Japanese host moms.



Vegan Japanese Curry and Okonomiyaki

Each morning I spent eating breakfast with my host family, we had miso soup made typically *kombu dashi* (kelp broth) or *shiitake dashi* (shiitake broth) rather than what is typically used: bonito dashi (fish broth). Along with soup, I often had *umeboshi* (pickled plum) over rice, a few vegetables like *kabocha* (Japanese pumpkin) or *dai-kon* radish, and some fruit. Not only were the breakfasts delicious, but they were definitely better than whatever I typically made for breakfast in Torrance. Along with food, I was also given green tea with most meals.

As the activities rolled by, lunchtime came; and, without the wonderful cooking of my host families, I began to wonder about my options outside of the home. Luckily, Japanese restaurants were just as accommodating as my host moms! For example, when our delegation made *soba* noodles at *Suzume-An*, I was able to try *soba* noo-

dles made by one of the best chefs in Kashiwa followed by a dessert of mango sorbet and *dango* (a sweet dumpling made of rice flour similar to mochi). In Hiroshima I got to try *okonomiyaki* (a noodle pancake dish) along with *ramune* (soda) while another day I got to try Japanese curry at Disneyland. Even when in a hurry, I was able to find food at the *konbini* (convenience store) without hassle. *Umeboshi Onigiri* (pickled plum rice ball), *edamame*, and frozen fruit quickly became my go-to meals in a pinch, proving the true convenience of the Japanese 7-11's. One of my favorite treats I tried was a dessert I had at a traditional Japanese restaurant. I had matcha shaved ice with red bean and mochi on top. I still think about it sometimes.

At the end of a long day of activities, I was always excited to sit down to a meal with my host families. From learning about their culture through conversations with them and the food they served, the evening was often my favorite part of the day. Every night I got to try a new cuisine; vegetable tempura, homemade mushroom gyoza, and veggie sushi were some of my favorites. Even with the limit of being vegan, I still got to try every Japanese food I'd ever really wanted to; and some that I'd never heard of!

With only around 5% of Japanese people identifying as vegetarian or vegan in a study from Vice in 2014, Japanese people do not necessarily have a history or strong presence of veganism in their modern society. But, with a culture devoted to thinking of others, I was never short of impressed by the meals I had while I was there. Both a rich history of traditional foods and access to healthy ingredients make for some of the best food in the world, regardless of dietary restrictions. In fact, the meals were so good, I have been trying out some of my favorite recipes at home. Using the translated vegan gyoza recipe of the Akitas, my first host family, and the chopsticks from the Nakanishis, my second host family, I've been able to relive some of the best moments I had there back at home through food. Rather than something to be worried about, being vegan in Japan opened me up to a different world of cuisine I am so thankful I got to try. ありがとうございます! ☘

Third part in a series of reports
from TSCA's 2019 Student Delegation

Except for the Lifetime Membership*
all dues are in effect from
January 1 to
December 31

Member Information

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____ Email Address _____

- My membership is: New Renewal
- TSCA Directory Update:
- New Address New Telephone Number New Email Address
- I do not want to be listed in the TSCA Directory
- TSCA Activities:
- I am interested in participating in TSCA activities

Mail your check and this form to:

Torrance Sister City Association
c/o Community Services Department
3031 Torrance Blvd.
Torrance, CA 90503

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$20
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$40
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting	\$75+
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$125+
<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate	\$200+
<input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Membership*	\$2,000+

Enclosed is a donation to
TSCA (in addition to \$ _____
annual dues)

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Make your **check** payable to **TSCA**

TSCA meetings are held on the second Monday
of each month at the Civic Center West Annex
Commission Room 7-9 pm
(No meetings in August or December)

*If you have
any questions
about your membership,
please email Alyssa Yamauchi at
tscamembership@gmail.com*

www.torrancesistercity.org



**Torrance Sister City
Association**

3031 Torrance Boulevard
Torrance, CA 90503